



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Austin SMITH et al.

Application No.: 09/786,817

Filed: March 9, 2001

For: PROPAGATION AND/OR
DERIVATION OF EMBRY

Group Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: Michael C. Wilson

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In an Office Action dated May 5, 2003, the Examiner required restriction under 35

U.S.C. § 121 between:

Group I: claims 12, 14-21, 25-28, 30-39, 43, 44, and 46-50 directed to compositions comprising a compound that promotes propagation of ES cells and a compound that inhibits the activity of SHP-2;

Group II: claims 12, 14-21, 25-28, 30-39, 43, 44, and 46-50 drawn to a composition comprising a compound that promotes propagation of ES cells and a compound that inhibits MEK; and

Group III claims 12, 14-21, 25-28, 30-39, 43, 44, and 46-50 drawn to a composition comprising a compound that promotes propagation of ES cells and a compound that inhibits a mitogen activated protein kinase.

Applicants elect to prosecute Group II, claims 12, 14-21, 25-28, 30-39, 43, 44, and 46-50 drawn to a composition comprising a compound that promotes propagation

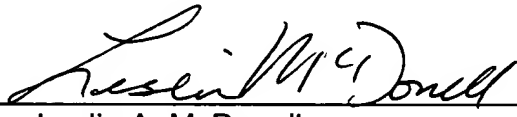
of ES cells and a compound that inhibits MEK. Applicants identify the compound PD098059 as the species for continued prosecution.

Applicants do not believe that any extension of time is required for entry of this response. However, in the event of an error, please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any required fees to deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 3, 2003

By: 
Leslie A. McDonnell
Reg. No. 34,872

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com